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The Ultimate Gift – Wallops Employee Becomes a Kidney Donor

Since 1972, the Sentara Norfolk (Va.) General Hospital Kidney Transplant Center has performed over 1200 kidney transplants. Today, June 16, Wallops' employee Todd Thornes (below) will become a living kidney donor.



Photo by Rebecca Hudson

Thornes' brother-in-law, C. L. Bundick of Parksley, Va., is suffering from polycystic kidney disease. The disease is known to have started with Bundick's mother, but it could have been passed to her from other ancestors. Both of Bundick's brothers also have the disease.

Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD) is the most common genetic, life threatening disease, affecting 12.5 million people worldwide. It is more common than Cystic Fibrosis, Muscular Dystrophy, Hemophilia, Down's Syndrome, Sickle Cell Anemia and Huntington's Disease combined. PKD is a hereditary disease that causes cysts to form on each kidney. These cysts continuously grow over time, enlarging the size of the kidneys. Eventually, the kidney shuts down; meaning only dialysis and transplants are options for treatment.

Bundick's wife, Dana, underwent testing to determine whether she could be a donor for her husband soon after doctors suggested a transplant. One out of every five blood relatives is a match, but only one in every 10 non-blood relatives is a match. Surprisingly, Dana was a match. Dana's hopes of being her husband's donor ended when doctors found she had a kidney stone.

When Thornes heard that his sister was not an acceptable donor, he decided to be tested to see if he

was possibly a match for C.L. Almost three weeks later, doctors notified Thornes that he was, in fact, a better match for being a donor than Dana. Thornes underwent extensive testing to make sure he was a suitable donor, both physically and mentally. All tests confirmed Thornes was a match.

Today Thornes will undergo laparoscopic surgery that will take between three and four hours. C.L.'s surgery, also today, will take between four and six hours. Doctors do not just choose a day to perform the transplant surgery that is mutually convenient for the patients and the medical staff. The date has to be carefully chosen when the recipient's body is most likely to successfully accept the transplant kidney. Both surgeries will be performed at the Sentara Transplant Center in Norfolk.

A kidney functioning at 10% usually denotes the need for transplant surgery. Bundick's kidneys are now functioning at 15%. A normal, healthy kidney usually functions between 75-80%.

According to Thornes, "The transplant process has brought the family closer, forming a special bond between us." Dana says it is a wonderful thing that her brother never hesitated in his decision and was willing to donate his kidney to her husband. "We'll never be able to thank Todd for it," Dana says, "He's giving C.L. another chance at life."

Thornes has been working at Wallops Flight Facility since August 2001, first for Computer Sciences Corporation and then accepting a job with NASA in January as a civil servant. He is a Range/Flight Safety Engineer in the Safety Office. Thornes says he is grateful for the support of the Safety Office.

"They have bent over backwards to accommodate me," Thornes says.

To learn more about becoming a donor visit: <http://www.sentara.com/transplant/livingkidneydonation.htm>

Editor's Note: Todd is the son of former Wallops employee Jennie Lee Thornes who retired from the Telephone Office.

Wallops Shorts..... Launches

A NASA Terrier-Malemute sounding rocket was successfully launch from Wallops Island on June 10. The purpose of the Dual-Mode Experiment on Bowshock Interactions (DEBI) is to investigate the spectral intensity of infrared and ultraviolet radiation generated in the bowshock of a sounding rocket with an advanced intercept missile like front end. The flight was nominal with good data obtained. Carl Howlett, Utah State University was the principal investigator. The mission manager was Bruce Scott, NSROC, and the project manager was Dave Moltedo, NASA Range and Mission Management Office.

A NASA scientific balloon was successfully launched from Palestine, Texas, on June 15. The 11.82 million cubic foot balloon carried a submillimeter astrophysics experiment to search for the signal from the first stars and galaxies. Dr. Alan Kogut, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, was the principal investigator. Total Flight time was 10 hours 41 minutes.

In the News Space News

"Sensor Problem Prompts NASA to Squash SPIDR Mission"

Ledger-Enquirer (Columbus, GA)

"Rocket Packs a Wallop"
"Student's Dream a Reality"
"Going Ballistic at Camp"
"Rocket Flies, but no Data Saved"
"Simple Cells Get Tested"
"NASA Displays Humor"
"Sweating the Right Small Stuff"

Eastern Shore News

"Students Prepare Experiments for NASA Launch"

Eastern Shore Post

"T-Minus Sleep & Holding"
"Northrop Grumman Would be in Research Park"

Eastern Shore News

Shore Speak
"NSROC & Wallops Alive and Well"

Astronomy.com

"To Space and Back"

Centennial of Flight Milestone

47 years ago on June 22, the Soviets exploded the first missile launched, airburst H-bomb.

Hurricane Season
Has Arrived

By Ted Wilz, Senior Meteorologist



FEMA Photo

The hurricane/tropical storm season usually starts out very slowly in June and peaks in early September. On the average, the Atlantic hurricane season brings 10 tropical storms. Six usually reach hurricane strength. Two of these could be classified as major hurricanes.

NOAA has predicted that 2003 will most likely be an above-normal Atlantic hurricane season. This year's outlook calls for 11 to 15 tropical storms, with six to nine becoming hurricanes, and two to four becoming major hurricanes.

There are many factors formulating this forecast, including above normal North Atlantic sea-surface temperatures and the more renowned El Nino/La Nina cycle in the equatorial Pacific. El Nino has already dissipated, and a transition to La Nina conditions is likely by August.

La Nina favors increased hurricane activity by reducing the vertical wind shear over the Atlantic hurricane basin's main development region. This combination of events along with other lesser-known factors means that tropical weather could once again be getting center stage come August and September. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) encourages families to take three basic steps in order to be better prepared in the event of a disaster. This includes having a disaster supply kit, creating a family emergency plan and understanding your risks.

FEMA's "Are You Ready? A Guide for Citizen Preparedness", is available online at <http://www.fema.gov/areyou ready/>

Names for this year's hurricane/tropical storms are:

Ana (already occurred in April)	
Bill	Larry
Claudette	Mindy
Danny	Nicholas
Erika	Odetta
Fabian	Peter
Grace	Rose
Henri	Sam
Isabel	Teresa
Juan	Victor
Kate	Wanda

Travel Manager/SAP
Training

Only preparers and resource analysts are required to attend this course. Travelers and managers are not required to attend.

Wallops training will be held through VITS on June 18 from 10 a.m. to noon in Building F6, Room 213. If you have any question regarding the training location please contact Lisa Bass on x1202.

Questions should be directed to the Travel Manager help desk at 66-4100 or: Rfohelpdesk@listserv.gsfc.nasa.gov

NASA Day
at Kings Dominion
July 12, 2003

Tickets

Adults \$31.00, kids \$25 if purchased prior to July 1

Adults \$34.00, kids \$28 if purchased after July 1

Parking tickets available for \$6

Tickets are available at the Wallops Exchange and include lunch served from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

For additional information, contact Karen Thornes on x2020 or stop by the Exchange and take a look at the new items including ladies polo shirts.

Core Financial
Registration and User ID/
Password Pick up

Wallops individuals can either drop the completed and signed NASA Form 1700 to Mike Bundick or mail it to the following Address:

NASA Security Administrator
Building 18, Room 200

Old Dominion University
TeleTechNet Classes

An updated fall schedule for Old Dominion University is available on the Eastern Shore Community College link: <http://www.es.vccs.edu/student/schedules/classssched.html>

IFMP Town Hall Meeting

June 19
11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Building E-2, Williamsburg Room



Close Call & Hazard
Reporting

A close call is an accident that "almost happened" – it is a hazardous situation that has potential to result in death, injury or loss of property. It could be an imminent danger situation needing immediate attention or a situation that in time will present a danger such as a loosening stair tread that will become a tripping hazard. It could be a near miss, where a person was nearly struck by a falling object and no damage was done or an accident "waiting to happen."

You can prevent someone from getting hurt by reporting a close call or hazard!

- If the situation creates an emergency, initiate emergency procedures (call 911, etc.)
- Take measures to prevent people from being hurt by the hazard
- Contact your supervisor, and ask for help, if needed
- Call the Help Desk (x4357) or submit a work order, **and let them know it is a safety issue**
- If you cannot correct the problem, contact the Wallops Safety Office on x2518

Report a close call by using the "Close Call Hazard Reporting System":



• Use the Wallops Safety website <http://www.wff.nasa.gov/~code803/>

• Access link titled **E m e r g e n c y** Reference and then Close Call Reporting or go to <http://closecall.gsfc.nasa.gov/sireport2.cfm>

- Submit a close call by telephone, x2518
- Submit a close call on Form 1627, available through the Wallops Safety Office

If you fear reprisal, or you are not satisfied with actions taken, use the NASA Safety Reporting System (NSRS) or access the NASA Safety Reporting System at: <http://www.hq.nasa.gov.gov/nsrs>

To learn more about close call and hazard reporting, contact Stan Williams on x2369.

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